

**Minutes of the Dry Drayton School & Village Association
Annual General Meeting
Held Thursday 15 February 2024 starting at 7:30pm
In the Dry Drayton School Hall**

Present: Neil Harris, Roger Swain, Diane Harris, Sonia Hegan, Simon Lander, Alison Arnold, Alec Hawkes, Tara Scott, Anne Hawkes, Robbie Hawkes, Cinnamon Bair, Stephen Gardner.

Apologies: Sue Wyatt, David Andrew Wyatt, David Valentine Wyatt, Hilary Smith, David Smith, Rachel Gardner, Louise Scripps.

		Actions
1.	<p><u>Review and adoption of minutes of the previous AGM and matters arising</u></p> <p>The minutes of the AGM held 21/2/23 were reviewed and unanimously adopted. There were no matters arising.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Presentation and acceptance of the accounts</u></p> <p>Treasurer Roger Swain presented the audited accounts, which are attached to these minutes. The following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The marquee was the largest earner, bringing in £4648. • Total receipts for ads which appeared in the village newsletter in 2023 were actually £2620, but only £1150 was received within the 2023 financial year. RS thanked former editor Rachel Gardner and ad coordinator Cinnamon Bair for organising the ads so efficiently. • The S & VA is holding £1270 of trim trail donations for the school, which will be transferred to the school with Gift Aid when the funding arrangements are finalised. • The Committee has voted to commit £4000 for the Trim Trail replacement, which is reflected in the reserves. • The largest costs were newsletter printing and marquee insurance; financial contributions were also given to Little Owl, Friendship Club and Freaky Friday. • The Reserve fund of £14,691 includes the allocations to the marquee and Trim Trail, leaving a general reserve of £3334. <p>A vote of thanks was unanimously given to Treasurer Roger Swain and auditor Stephen Gardner.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Report of the S & VA Chair</u></p> <p>Chair Neil Harris reported on the events in the village in 2023 which included: the Coronation celebration in May supported jointly by the S & VA and Village Hall committees; the 'Safari' panto and the Summer Sizzler in July with the school; the Fun Run and BBQ in September; the Little Owl Christmas Fair in November; and the Advent Trail, a new event organised jointly by Hilary Smith and Diane Harris. Neil emphasised that the S & VA is hoping to continue to work with other groups such as the school, the village hall, the church, Little Owl, etc, to coordinate events.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Report of the Headteacher</u></p> <p>Headteacher Sonia Hegan reported that heating, cooking and transport have all been affected hugely by inflation. She said the</p>	

	<p>school is truly grateful for the support of the S & VA, which is a huge help. She also made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the last year the school has been involved in more joint events with the S & VA, Church and village, which she hoped helped the sense of community and quality of life in the village, as well as drawing on a larger pool of organisers and attendees. • The school is now officially the second smallest school in the county. • The school's fundraising events have been focused on the new Trim Trail, which will be not only for the children at the school but also for the children in the village. • Other activities supported by the S & VA included the redecoration of the KS2 classroom, the Coronation party, Summer Sizzler, Fun Run, panto in the marquee, purchase of new gym equipment like the springboard and the horse, books and history boxes. • The school has also organised and participated in many other events over the past year including the Nativity play, summer play, music concerts in Church and at Christmas, dress up days, History off the Page, Forest school, a trip to London to take part in Young Voices at the O2, many sports activities and tournaments, a public speaking competition at Peterhouse College and Dry Drayton's Got Talent. • Village resident Libby Peachey is helping the school link to schools in Nepal and Italy as part of a climate change project. • The school is involved in the Cambridge Standing Tall Giraffe project for children in care; their giraffe will go into Grafton Centre as part of a trail. The Giraffe committee of children is raising all the money for the project (up to £700). 	
5.	<p><u>Election of the Officers and Committee for 2023/24</u></p> <p>Anne Hawkes was asked to chair the voting for the committee officers and members. The members of the committee then submitted their resignations. Robbie Hawkes proposed that all of the persons who were standing to be officers or committee members be nominated, seconded by Steven Gardner. The new committee was unanimously re-elected as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Neil Harris • Treasurer: Roger Swain • Secretary: Diane Harris • Committee members: Cinnamon Bair, Simon Lander. <p><i>Ex officio</i> members were agreed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent representatives: Louise Scripps (Infants) and Tara Scott (Juniors). • School representative: Alison Arnold. <p>It was noted the school parents also have a WhatsApp group, which may be an effective channel for the parent reps to report on S & VA activities and request parental feedback.</p>	

6.	<p><u>2024 Calendar of Events</u></p> <p>The S & VA committee met in January with Sonia Hegan and Ali Arnold from the school and Rev Clare Coates from the Church to develop a calendar for the year, of events run throughout the village. It will appear in the next newsletter and Les Waters will also provisionally post it on the Dry Drayton website. Sonia Hegan suggested the school could add it to their school newsletter which also has more school dates, so the link to the DD website or the newsletter should be provided to the school. Alec Hawkes requested that the Boundary Walk on 22 June be added to the calendar.</p>	<p>NH to add Boundary Walk (22 June) to calendar and ensure school has access to latest version.</p>
7.	<p><u>Village Marquee</u></p> <p>It was reported that Robbie Hawkes is stepping back from being the main physical organiser of the marquee. He has previously been the only one who could tow the long trailer, so alternative methods of towing are being investigated, although it is hoped Robbie will continue to help with maintenance during the season. The team is looking to buy a shorter trailer that volunteers will be happier to tow, which will also require adaptations to the marquee so it fits on the trailer. The trailer will be an investment for the S & VA. Costs of £5k have been approved by the S & VA committee, but additional funding may be needed as it is proving more costly than originally thought. A vote of thanks was unanimously given for Robbie's help.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Any other business</u></p> <p>Newsletter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After 6 and a half years Rachel Gardner has stepped down as the newsletter editor. A vote of thanks was unanimously given for her dedication. Four people have come forward to be guest editors, so it has been decided this year to produce the newsletter quarterly (spring, summer, autumn and winter). • The spring newsletter will be produced using the Adobe software, which is difficult to use for people unfamiliar with it. Seunghee, who was handling the layout using Adobe, has also indicated she would like to step down. Cinnamon Bair, who will edit the summer issue, has offered to create a Word template which will be more accessible for other guest editors. • The newsletter will not have adverts because of the transition, but the net effect on the accounts will be fairly neutral as the number of pages will be reduced. • It was felt there was still value to having a printed newsletter if possible, but this is also seen as a transition year. Neil Harris has spoken to Les Waters about how to possibly adapt the emails and website to do some of the things no longer done by the newsletter. Les is willing to circulate more village emails and post more information on the website. 	<p>DH to advertise the Dry Drayton website link on Facebook locals.</p>

